

LIMEHURST

Rural District Council



MEDICAL  
OFFICER'S  
INTERIM REPORT  
1947.





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Rural District

of

LIMEHURST



# INTERIM REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1947

and

THE REPORT

of the

Sanitary Inspector

for the

Year 1947

# Limehurst Rural District Council

## 1947-1948.



Members of the Council:	Parish
Councillor E. COLLINGE, Chairman .....	Bardsley
„ T. OLLERENSHAW, Vice-Chairman,	Waterloo
„ S. HOWARD, J.P., resigned June 10th, 1947	Waterloo
„ W. ROBERTSON .....	Woodhouses
„ Mrs. W. M. BOWMAN .....	Littlemoss
„ W. SLATER .....	Alt

### Officials:

E. H. RATCLIFFE, A.C.A., .....	Clerk of the Council
B. BOWMAN, M.B., Ch.B. ....	Medical Officer of Health
W. DAWSON, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.,	Resigned 9th February, 1947 ... Sanitary Inspector
S. DAVIES, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.,	Commenced 21st April, 1947 ... Sanitary Inspector
H. BRADSHAW .....	Surveyor
A. HOWSON, A.R.V.A. ....	Rating Officer
H. E. TURNER, F.S.I. ....	Valuation Office Part-time

### Public Health Staff:

Medical Officer of Health.  
Sanitary Inspector.  
Clerk (Part-time).

# INTERIM REPORT.

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Council Offices,

200, Oldham Road,

Waterloo, nr. Ashton-under-Lyne.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
of the

## Limehurst Rural District Council

Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1947. I have pleasure in announcing that the general health remains good.

The Vital Statistics submitted bear favourable comparison with the rest of the County as a whole; in the campaign for Diphtheria Immunisation, the number of children immunised is steadily rising, but there is room for improvement on the present figures.

I should like to offer my sincere thanks to the Ladies who have attended the Child Welfare Centre and have voluntarily rendered such valuable assistance each week.

To the Members of the Council and Officials, I tender my thanks for their assistance and co-operation during the past year.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

B. BOWMAN,

Temporary Medical Officer of Health.



## AREA, POPULATION, AND RATEABLE VALUE.

PARISH	AREA IN ACRES	No. of Inhabited Houses	Rateable Value £	Product Id. Rate £
Alt .....	1,132·724	271	3,140	12
Bardsley .....	883 076	545	7,246	27
Littlemoss ...	703·802	205	3,009	11
Waterloo .....	341·139	1,274	15,350	56
Woodhouses...	627·545	234	2,620	10
Totals...	3,688 286	2,529	31,365	116

Population at 1931 Census (excluding Hartshead) ... 8,151  
 Population, 1947 ... .. 7,425

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Generally the number of notifiable diseases was again small; an increase in the incidence of measles was noted.

There were no cases of diphtheria notified during the year, and I consider this constant falling rate fully justifies all efforts in the vigorous campaign for Diphtheria Immunisation of the child population of the County as a whole.

Five cases of scarlet fever were notified and admitted to hospital as follows:—

Oldham (Westhulme) ... .. 3 cases

Hyde ... .. 2 cases

Three cases of suspected infectious diseases, scarlet fever, diphtheria and smallpox, were admitted to hospital as follows:—

Hyde ... .. 2 cases

Smallpox Isolation Hospital,

Hartshead ... .. 1 case

All cases proved negative.

In cases other than the suspected case of smallpox, ambulance facilities were provided by the hospital admitting the patient.

In the case of suspected smallpox, the ambulance was provided by the City of Manchester.

There has been no change from previous years with regard to hospital accommodation and ambulance facilities for both infectious and non-infectious cases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR, 1947  
Notified cases only included.

With regard to non-infectious cases, Oldham ambulance serves four Parishes and Ashton-under-Lyne ambulance one Parish.

This arrangement provides an adequate Ambulance Service for the whole District.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED YEARS											Total Deaths (the figures in this column agree with those supplied by the Registrar General).	Hospital. — Total Cases removed to Hospital from the District.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District.
		Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over		
Smallpox ... ..	5		1			1		2							
Scarlet Fever ... ..															
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup															
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ... ..															
Acute Primary Pneumonia															
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	12	1	1	1							3	5	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..															
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..															
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..															
Acute Polio-Encephalitis															
Encephalitis-Lethargica															
Dysentery ... ..															
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2														
Erysipelas ... ..	119	2	27	34	22	15	18	1				1			
Measles ... ..	14	1	3	4	2	4									
Whooping Cough ... ..															
Other Notifiable diseases															
Totals ... ..	152	4	32	39	24	21	19	3	—	—	4	6	1	6	1

## TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1947.

YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1								
1—5								
5—10								
10—15		1						
15—20	1							
20—25	1	1						
25—35	1		1	1				
35—45								
45—55	2				1			
55—65								
65 and over				1				
	5	2	1	2	1			
	7		3		1			

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The scheme for immunisation against diphtheria has been in operation throughout the year.

During the year sessions have been held regularly at the Immunisation Clinic, and a total of 195 children have been immunised. The Clinic is held at the Methodist School, Oldham Road, Waterloo.

Details are as follows:—

No. of children immunised

during the year

Prophylactics used

(a) Pre-school children 145

A.P.T.

(b) School children ... 50

T.A.F.

The return to the Ministry of Health showing the total number of children immunised from the commencement of the scheme in January, 1941, to the end of December, 1947, is as follows:—

Children 0 to 5	...	...	...	...	369
Children 5 to 15	...	...	...	...	450
Children now over 15	...	...	...	...	171

Total 990



## SCHOOL CLINIC

There are no School Clinics in the District, but facilities are available for school children at the County Clinic, Post Office Buildings, Royton. Detailed plans for the erection of a School Clinic in the Rural District were well advanced but had to be postponed owing to the war.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

A Welfare Centre administered by the Lancashire County Council at the Methodist School, Oldham Road, Waterloo, is now held every Thursday afternoon.

## MIDWIVES' ACT, 1936

The Midwife allocated to the Rural District is Mrs. A. Harrop, S.C.M., S.R.N., residing at 5, Ney Street, Waterloo, Ashton-under-Lyne; Tel. ASH 2033.

## WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE

2,485 houses are supplied by public mains and have a tap inside the house; 44 houses depend on wells or other private sources of supply.

Two small schemes to deal with 40 houses were prepared during 1945 and 1946; these were submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval and financial assistance and were turned down. During the past year you gave further consideration to these schemes, and it was decided to submit same to the Lancashire County Council with a view to obtaining financial assistance to cover the proposed work. These two schemes were submitted to the County Council; the results are not yet to hand.

Two Parishes (Waterloo and Bardsley, 1,813 houses) are sewered. Three Parishes (Alt, Littlemoss and Woodhouses, 709 houses) are without public sewers.

## BY-LAWS

Building By-laws under the Public Health Act, 1936, are in force in the District.

## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

The Council is a Constituent Authority of the Oldham and District Statutory Regional Planning Committee.

## Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

### 1. Inspections, for the purposes of provisions as to health, including inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories with mechanical power ... ..	25	1	—
Factories (without mechanical power ... ..	2	—	—
Other premises under the Act ... (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—
Total ... ..	27	1	—

### 2. Defects Found.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1) ... ..	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2) ... ..	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4) ... ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)—				
insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—
unsuitable or defective ... ..	3	3	—	—
not separate for sexes... ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences ... ..	—	—	—	—
Not including offences relating to home work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule of the Factories Act. 1937.				
Total ... ..	4	4		

Number of Returns in Outworkers' Section—1

# Sanitary Inspector's Report

## TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE LIMEHURST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances of the District for the year 1947.

My predecessor, Mr. Dawson, resigned from office on February 9th, 1947; I commenced duties April 21st, 1947; therefore the major portion of work done during the year is my responsibility.

With regard to foodstuffs consumed in the Area, these have not given rise to any difficulties; the standard of milk produced within the District has remained good.

The continued acute shortage of building materials is still evident, and this has resulted in a high number of complaints being received at the Office concerning unsatisfactory housing accommodation.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all Members and Officials of the Council for their help and valuable assistance.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. DAVIES,

Sanitary Inspector.

### Notices Served—Nuisance and Sanitary Defects

No. of Informal Notices served during 1947 (concerning 186 houses) ... ..	169
No. of same complied with during 1947 (concerning 113 houses) ... ..	95
No. of Informal Notices served for absent or defective dustbins concerning 58 premises ... ..	42
No. of Informal Notices complied with ... ..	42
No. of absent or defective dustbins in the District ...	106
Note.—A number of Notices in the form of letters were delivered in addition to the above.	
No. of Statutory Notices served ... ..	18
No. of Statutory Notices complied with ... ..	16
No. of Legal Proceedings authorised ... ..	10
No. of Legal Proceedings taken ... ..	Nil



## Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

Total number of Notifiable Diseases recorded

during the year ... .. 155

(A tabulated statement is given on pages 5 and 6)

No. of premises disinfected (houses) ... .. 8

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, DRAINAGE, ETC.

During the year the undermentioned work has been carried out:—

No. of waste-water closets converted to fresh-water closets ... .. 4

No. of ashpits abolished; concerning 30 houses ... .. 10

No. of privy middens abolished, concerning 5 houses ... 3

No. of closet pails provided, including conversions and renewals ... .. 41

No. of dustbins provided, including conversions and renewals ... .. 192

No. of premises where fresh-water closets were installed 6

No. of premises where branch drains were laid ... .. 4

No. of premises where existing drains were cleansed or repaired ... .. 12

No. of public sewers cleansed ... .. 8

The 598 pail closets are remote from the public sewer, and the question of conversion will remain in abeyance until such times as sewerage facilities are provided to these parts of the District.

With reference to the 480 waste-water closets in the District, it is generally agreed that this type of convenience should be abolished and replaced by fresh-water closets.

Attempts have been made to abolish existing ashpits, but here again it is a question of suitable dustbins; the delivery of dustbins is usually 6 to 9 months after ordering.

The closet accommodation for 2,057 houses is on the water-carriage system.

The number of dustbins now to be emptied in the whole District is 2,309, as against 171 in 1922.

The Council's scheme to purchase dustbins and pails in quantities for re-sale to owners and occupiers in the District, necessitated by the absence of such articles in the ordinary trade channels, has been continued throughout the year. The demand has always been greater than the supply, but it has been possible, by careful selection, to supply those in greatest need first. The scheme commenced in 1941, and since that date 547 dustbins and 241 pails have been supplied.



# TABULATED RECORD OF SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT THE END OF 1947

PARISH	Water Closets	Waste Water Closets	Pail Closets	Galv'd Bins	Middens	Cesspits	Closets	Ashpits	Tubs Boxes. etc.
Alt ...	80	22	192	230	3	10	6	—	—
Bardsley ...	387	193	16	483	1	—	—	6	—
Littlemoss ...	122	10	136	176	—	5	2	6	—
Waterloo ...	1101	254	1	1180	—	—	—	64	6
Woodhouses	31	1	233	240	—	3	1	—	4
Totals ...	1721	480	578	2309	4	18	9	76	10

The following report is a summary of work done by the Surveyor's Department, details of which have been supplied by your Surveyor, Mr. Bradshaw:—

### HOUSING

The number of occupied houses in the District on January 1st, 1947, was 2,493, and by December 31st this was increased to 2,529; the increase was made up as follows:—

Erected and owned by the Council ...	24
Erected by private enterprise ... ..	11
Conversions (private enterprise) ...	1
	—
	36
	—

Of these there are 30 three-bedroom type houses and six two-bedroom.

The number of houses under construction at December 31st, 1947, was 46. This being made up as follows:—

Council permanent traditional houses	26
Council permanent prefabricated	
houses ... ..	16
Private enterprise ... ..	4
	—
	46
	—

Of these 32 are roofed and 14 are erected to eaves level.

In addition to the above the Ministry has authorised an extension of the contract on Waterloo Estate, and 16 further houses will be commenced early in 1948.

It may be stated that the general standard of design in construction throughout these building operations has been very satisfactory.

### BUILDING SITES

During the year preparation of the Waterloo site was completed as regards roads, sewers and grading, and the site is therefore immediately available for a further 60 in addition to those above mentioned (the above figures are exclusive of building operations which are being undertaken within the District by Oldham and Ashton Borough Councils).

### SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

All work undertaken on sewers during the year has been normal maintenance work, and has included five subsidences along the sewer track. The only extensions to sewers have been for the new housing sites at Waterloo and Bardsley.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS

The analysis of sewage effluent has, in some cases, proved unsatisfactory, and this was due largely to worn and broken plant which could not be replaced during the war. The following remedial measures have been undertaken, though owing to labour and materials difficulties all the work has not been completed during the year.

### **Littlemoss**

General overhaul, including new filter arms and syphons (work completed).

### **Newmarket Road Works**

General overhaul, including repairs to filters and increase in depth of filter beds (work completed).

### **Waterloo Works**

New filter arms, syphon pipes and one complete distributor ordered (awaiting delivery of materials). All sludge beds emptied, three abolished and new beds in course of construction (work proceeding). Wash-down manhole constructed on sewer, and sewage from pail closets now passed direct to sewage works. Lagoon previously used for drying sewage now abolished (work completed).

### **Bardsley Works**

New filter arms, syphon, pipes and float valves ordered (awaiting delivery of materials).

## REFUSE REMOVAL AND CLEANSING

During the year the use of hired transport was discontinued and the Council's vehicles now undertake the whole of the house scavenging. The total number of ashbins in the District is 2,309; the total number of pail closets in the District is 578; the total number of ashpits in the District is 76; the total number of septic tanks in the District is 18.

The system of emptying pail closets has been revised and, whereas the majority of these were previously emptied once a fortnight, the whole of the District is now covered weekly.

### **Controlled Tipping**

An extension of the culvert at Waterloo tip has been authorised and this will give approximately half an acre additional tipping space (materials on order—delivery awaited).

## SALVAGE

It may be mentioned that a salvage collection is made in connection with refuse collection, and the totals of material salvaged for the year were:—



Paper ... ..	52 tons	Rags ... ..	2 tons
Tins ... ..	20 tons	Bottles ... ..	5 tons

The collection of tins and bottles was inaugurated during the year and the figures given are, therefore, not for the complete year.

### CIVIL DEFENCE

During the year the removal and disposal of all air-raid shelters, both brick and steel, has been completed.

### PLANS

The total number of applications for new buildings and alterations dealt with under By-laws and Town Planning Regulations was 65.

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES, MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

No public slaughterhouse is established in the District. There are four private slaughterhouses, one in Bardsley and three in Waterloo.

In January, 1940, private slaughtering ceased, all slaughtering being subject to Government control from this date. No Government slaughterhouse was established in Limehurst.

A constant watch is kept on foodstuffs, including meat coming into the shops in the District.

The following foodstuffs have been condemned as unfit for human consumption and have been dealt with as directed by the Government:—

45 tins of foodstuff ...	weight 65 lbs.
Meat ... ..	weight 39 lbs.
Total ...	104 lbs.

Places where foodstuffs are prepared, sold or stored are subject to regular inspection. It has not been necessary to institute any legal proceedings.

### DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK SHOPS

There are 62 dairy farms in the district in the occupation of 60 cowkeepers, all of whom are on the register. The total number of cows kept is 1,395.

In addition to the 60 cowkeepers, who are also dairymen with registered dairy premises, there are seven resident dairyment and retail purveyors of milk with registered premises. These are not cowkeepers, but buy milk in bulk and retail in the District.

Finally, there are 55 firms and persons registered as dairymen and retail purveyors who have no dairy premises in the



Rural District.

Fees for the sale of pasteurised milk have been paid by three dairy firms this year.

Nine resident dairymen and cowkeepers are licensed by the Lancashire County Council as producers of "Accredited Milk." Three of these producers are also licensed for bottling.

Altogether 38 samples of milk have been taken. These include a number taken on the request of the Lancashire County Council. Samples were taken for examination concerning tubercle bacilli, bacterium coli; the methylene blue and reductase test.

#### Tubercle Bacillus

Samples submitted for the biological test:—

No. Submitted	No. Negative	No. Positive
34	26	6
For Methylene Blue and Bacillus Coli		
No. Submitted	No. Negative	Unsatisfactory
38	28	10

Note.—The standard adopted in classification of the above was the "Accredited" standard.

Structural improvements have taken place at two farms.

#### WATER SUPPLIES

All but 44 houses in the Rural District are supplied from public mains: the majority from the mains of the Ashton-under-Lyne, Dukinfield, Stalybridge and District Waterworks, whilst a small number are fed from the Oldham Corporation Waterworks main. The water from both these sources is satisfactory in both quantity and quality. No bacteriological or chemical examinations have been made by the Rural District during the year, such examination being made by the Undertakers. There has been no evidence of plumbo-solvent action, and no samples have been taken by the Rural District Council.

The number of houses supplied direct from public mains is 2,476.

Number of houses supplied from stand-pipes is nil.

The population supplied direct from public mains is estimated at 7,000.

#### HOUSING AND OVERCROWDING

The total number of dwelling-houses in the District at the end of 1947 is 2,529, mostly of the working-class type.

Thirty-five new houses have been erected during the year.

Eight cases of overcrowding have been dealt with, and this has been achieved by rehousing young married couples

with one, two and three children who have been in lodgings. It is deeply regretted that the Council's housing programme has been curtailed and that the future prospects of house building are somewhat obscured.

The number of applicants for new houses is steadily rising, in spite of your efforts to meet these demands, and these in the main are still coming from people living in lodgings. The prospects of dealing with the overcrowding problem is not encouraging, especially with families containing adolescents.

With regard to repair work on existing houses and the consequent shortage of materials, it has again been difficult to carry out essential repairs, and this is evident in the high number of complaints received concerning urgent defects and other conditions likely to be dangerous. The percentage of these complaints in relation to the number of inhabited houses in the district is  $8\frac{1}{2}\%$ . As you will no doubt observe from the number of Informal and Statutory Notices served, and the number of Notices complied with, it has been possible to carry out repairs to serious defects and work of an urgent character.

## SHOPS AND OFFICES

Visits have been made to shops in the District; no action was necessary with regard to offices.

## BUILDING LICENSING

No. of Licences issued concerning dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	224	
Value of Licences issued concerning dwellings	...	...	...	...	...		£8,484 4 11
No. of Licences issued concerning other premises	...	...	...	...	...	41	
Value of Licences issued to other premises	...	...	...	...	...		£2,438 10 0
Total number of Licences issued	...	...	...	...	...	265	
Total value of Licences issued	...	...	...	...	...		£10,922 14 11
No. of visits to premises concerning applications for Licences and permits for materials	...	...	...	...	...	240	

## RODENT CONTROL

Since February, 1944, the Council have been responsible for the work under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

The powers were delegated by the Lancashire County Council.

The Council has one trained Rodent Operative on a part-time basis, and the work is supervised by the Sanitary Inspector.

During the year a survey of all surface property, rivers, canals and streams was carried out in accordance with the guidance given by the Rodent Division, late of the Ministry of Food and now under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

No reservoir infestations of rodents were found, but two cases of major infestations were dealt with, including cases of minor infestations at industrial premises. A few cases of minor infestations found on allotments, such as hen-pens and the like, were dealt with, and in all cases the costs were recovered from the persons responsible.

Your sewage works and tips at Bardsley and Waterloo, have received routine attention, and it has been possible to keep the rodent population under control.

During the year 1947 your sewers have received two treatments for rodent control.

With reference to rodent infestation found on farms, etc., the assistance of the Lancashire Agricultural Committee, Rodent Infestation Department, was obtained, and in all cases of notification to this Authority good co-operation was obtained, and on the whole the farmers are well satisfied with the results.

## OTHER VERMIN

During the summer your Waterloo tip received daily attention on its working face with insecticide in order to arrest the breeding of crickets and flies; the results were satisfactory.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. DAVIES,

Sanitary Inspector.

